

## Oldham Muslim Forum

### **1. COMMUNITY PROJECT NAME**

The name of The Community Forum/Project/ initiative shall be The Oldham Muslim Forum and in this document it is called The Forum)

### **2. OBJECTS (INCLUDING DETAILS OF BENEFICIARIES);**

1. The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by:
  - (a) Educating the public in different religious beliefs including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different beliefs & none;
  - (b) Promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious beliefs.
2. To further such purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively according to the laws of England and Wales as the EM may from time to time determine.
3. To represent Muslims in Oldham and surrounding areas in the media and other media outlets including social media appropriately, sincerely and honestly.
4. To relay the message of the Muslims community from Oldham & surrounding areas to all local and national authorities
5. To work alongside authorities, NGO's, individuals and organisations within the borough and surrounding areas to create a positive impact and empower people to be a beacon of light for the communities at large.
6. To collate information from the local and national Muslim Organisations in order to report good practices across the Borough, surrounding areas and the UK.
7. To showcase best practice within Mosques, community organisations and madrasahs across Oldham and Surrounding areas in order to

8. self-govern good practice to achieve high expectations from institutes and organisations.
9. To bring Mosques, community led organisations and the Muslim Community at large within Oldham and surrounding areas together to collectively work on common goals and objectives.
10. To assist the Muslim community, the Mosques, organisations and individuals in combatting Islamophobia and anti-hate crimes, as well as creating a reporting mechanism which truly reflects the statistics in the Borough & surrounding areas.
11. To train and empower Muslims in Oldham and surrounding areas in creating a cohesive society.
12. To represent Muslims in Oldham & Surrounding areas to educational institutes as well local and national authorities.
13. To Provide main stream media representational training to communities within Oldham & Surrounding areas
14. To remove commonly held misconceptions within other communities about Islam and its practices
15. To create Mental Health awareness in local communities including mosques and madrasahs
16. To create awareness around social issues concerning our communities (Muslims and other communities): drug/alcohol abuse, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, child sexual grooming etc
17. We aim to produce a Quarterly publication highlighting the issues facing the Muslim communities in Oldham and surrounding areas.

### 3. Purpose

To create a welcoming environment where Muslims in the Oldham and surrounding areas can discuss and share their experiences & to unite Muslims from different backgrounds in one platform to find solutions to common issues affecting the Muslim community. The Forum will be non-sectarian in nature whilst appreciating and respecting that members will be from different schools of thoughts within Islam. Discussion on topics of fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) and issues of divergent opinions across the different schools of thought will be outside the purview of this Forum.

### 4. The Forums Executive members

The Forum's Executive Members (in this document they are referred to as EM) are any persons who are responsible for controlling, managing and administration of The Forum.

*Except with the prior written approval of The Forums EM no Member or associate may:*

- Receive any benefit in money or in kind from The Forum; or
- Have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to The Forum; or
- Acquire or hold any interest in property of The Forum (except in order to hold it as EM of The Forum)

A EM may pay out of, or be reimbursed from, the property of The Forum reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of The Forum

No Trustee may be paid or receive any other benefit for being a trustee. This does not prevent a Trustee from buying goods and services from The Forum or otherwise enjoying the facilities provided by The Forum upon the same terms as other users.

### 5. Powers of the EM

In addition to any other powers the EM may exercise any of the following powers in order to further the Object(s) (but not for any other purpose):

- i) *To raise funds. In exercising this power, the EM must not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations*
- ii) *To buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire, property, and to maintain and equip it for use;*

- iii) To sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of, all or any part of the property belonging to The Forum. In exercising this power the EM must comply as appropriate with sections 117 - 123 of the Charities Act 2011*
- iv) To borrow money interest free and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to The Forum, as security for repayment of the money borrowed. The EM must comply as appropriate with sections 124 - 126 of the Charities Act 2011 if they wish to mortgage (interest free) land owned by The Forum*
- v) To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice on them with the prior consent of the EM*
- vi) To establish or support any charitable trusts Mosque, Educational Institutions, Muslim Businesses and Muslim Representatives, associations or institutions formed for the Object.*
- vii) To obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of The Forum*
- viii) To acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other Forum formed for The Object*
- ix) To set aside income as reserves against future expenditure*
- x) To open and operate bank and other accounts as the EM consider necessary and to invest funds*
- xi) To do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of The Object*
- xii) (Remaining )EM to appoint new or replacement Trustee(s)*
- xiii) Determine General and Special meetings for The Forum as required*

## **6. Amendments (Governing Document)**

The Governing Document rules may be amended by a resolution passed by not less than one-third of the members and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

## **7. Dissolution**

If The Forum EM decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve The Forum, they shall realise any assets held by or on behalf of The Forum. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred by The Forum EM to such other charitable institution or institutions having Objects similar to

The Objects of The Forum as The Forum EM may decide, or, failing that, shall be applied by The Forum EM for some other charitable purpose

## **8. Accounts, Annual Report and Annual Return**

Forum EM shall comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011, relevant to the income/expenditure level of their Forum, with regard to:

- The keeping of accounting records for The Forum;
- The preparation of annual statements of account for The Forum;
- The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of The Forum;
- The preparation of an Annual Report and the sending of it together with the statements of account to The Forum to display on the website for accountability and
- The preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Forum EM
- To decide on a mechanism to bring on new associate members and co opt them to the EM if and when required
- To revoke Associate membership to The Forum if the Associate Member(S) behaves in an inappropriate or illegal manner.
- To revoke remove or terminate an EM(s) if the EM(S) break the law or behave irresponsibly.
- To elect a chair and vice chair for The Forum every 4 years, or sooner if so required

## **9 Assets**

The assets are to be held in the name of The Forum, this includes the Bank Account which will require two EM signatures to sign cheques and any documents for The Forum.

## **10 Meetings**

### ***Annual General Meeting***

- a) The Forum's Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) to be held in September
- b) All members are be given minimum of fourteen day's notice of the A.G.M. and are entitled to attend and vote.
- c) Minimum five members must be present for the A.G.M. and any other General Meeting to take place

### ***General Meetings***

- a) To be held twice annually as determined by the EM
- b) All members shall be entitled to attend and vote

### ***Special General Meeting***

A Special General Meeting may be called by the EM, or 3 members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen day's notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed.

## **11 Management**

- a) The Forum will be administered by a Management Committee of not less than three and not more than eight individuals elected at the Forum's Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.).
- b) The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: The Chairperson, Treasurer and the Secretary.
- c) The Management Committee may co-opt onto the Committee, up to three individuals, in an advisory and non-voting capacity that it feels will help to fulfil the Object of the Forum.
- d) The Management Committee will meet at least three times a year.
- e) At least three Management Committee members must be present for a Management Committee meeting to take place.
- f) Voting at the Management Committee meetings will be by the show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second deciding vote.
- g) The Management Committee will have the power to remove any member of the Committee for good and fitting reason.
- h) The Management Committee may appoint any other member of the Forum as a Committee member to fill a vacancy, provided that the maximum prescribed is not exceeded.

### **Associate Membership**

Associate membership criteria will be available on our website for All Muslims. All Muslim organisations and All Muslim working within Oldham & Surrounding areas. EM will from time to time have the right to change and amend the Associate Membership criteria as and when required.

## **12 Adoption of the Constitution (Governing Document)**

Until the first A.G.M. takes place the persons whose names, addresses & signatures appear at the bottom of this document shall act as the Executive Members referred to in this Governing Document.

This Governing Document was adopted on: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020.